



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
U.S. COAST GUARD

# YARD NEWS

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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## Looking Down at History!

The Yard has been a scene of living history for the past five months as our nearly 116-year-old shipyard hosted the 79-year-old Barque EAGLE and the 161-year-old USS CONSTELLATION (dry-docked in the 71-year-old Ex- USS OAK RIDGE.) The historic ships have brought unprecedented recognition to the Yard from the media with coverage in local/city newspapers and television stations as well as visits from the community and other dignitaries.

The below aerial photo, taken on Valentine's Day, provides a "bird's eye view" of the Yard's busy waterfront, our guests of honor, and other Coast Guard customers. Pictured left to right are: USS CONSTELLATION (homeport: Inner Harbor-Baltimore, Maryland) in the USS OAK RIDGE; CGC SPENCER (homeport: Boston, Massachusetts), Barque EAGLE (homeport: Baltimore, Maryland), and CGC MORRO BAY (homeport: Cleveland, Ohio) on the shiplift. CGC PENOBSCOT BAY (homeport: Bayonne, New Jersey) is on the east wall. Not pictured in the aerial photo are the 87' Bow-to-Stern project cutters CGC HAMMERHEAD (homeport: Woods Hole, Massachusetts) and CGC BLUEFIN (homeport: Fort Pierce, Florida) docked on the west wall.

*(Photo by LCDR Michael Darrah and crew from Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City)*



**"SINCE 1899, SERVICING THE FLEET THAT GUARDS OUR COASTS"**

# The Commanding Officer's Column

by Captain George A. Lesher



Greetings, Shipmates! We thought last winter was tough; this one proved to be one of the coldest ever. Arundel Cove and Curtis Creek froze solid with more than eight inches of ice requiring multiple break outs to keep work going courtesy of the CHOCK, JAMES RANKIN, and commercial tugs. POMPANO, an 87' WPB, had to be towed up the bay by an ice breaking tug so we could start work on her. We fared slightly better than last year with less snow; only two days closed as opposed to five last year and several delayed openings. Thanks to the Facilities Department

for clearing the base and repairing the many ruptured water lines and, of course, to the waterfront who worked through this weather to conduct repairs to the cutters.

Thanks to the teams of Yard craftsman that took to the road and met the STURGEON BAY on two separate occasions last month to perform emergency repairs to the main motor and her exhaust system, so that she could continue her vitally important ice breaking mission on the Hudson River. We also met the CHOCK at a port on the Chesapeake Bay to conduct emergency repairs on her shaft seal, so that she could continue her ice breaking mission as well.

The front cover shows an aerial picture of the USS CONSTELLATION in the floating drydock. This unique project was accomplished under an agreement with the City of Baltimore. I am proud to report the project finished on time and under budget, and the historic warship will be returning to her berth in the Inner

Harbor as soon as the ice clears for her transit. Labor for the project was provided as a joint partnership between the Living Classroom Foundation, the CG Yard and Project SERVE which is a MD Department of Corrections program to put rehabilitated inmates to work. You can read more about the project on page four.

It was a pleasure to host the Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard for a visit to the Yard and SFLC and having him speak at the Officer's Association Luncheon. Since January, we have also hosted the Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, the Assistant Commandant for Resources, the DHS Budget Director, the Naval Engineering Program Review, and the quarterly Society of Naval Architect and Marine Engineering meeting. It was an honor to show all of these persons and groups the important and high quality work we do for the Coast Guard.

Thanks for all you do,  
Semper Paratus!

## Vice Commandant Makes Inaugural Visit To Yard

The Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Peter Neffenger (photo at right - center), visited the Yard on January 27th and toured the waterfront. Stops along the way included a first-hand look at the first phase of the four-year phase Service Live Extension Project (SLEP) currently underway on the Barque EAGLE. The Cutter's SLEP is part of the Coast Guard's In-Service Vessel Sustainment (ISVS) Project designed to perform modernization of select Coast Guard vessels at the Yard. The ISVS project is critical to the long-term sustainability of the Coast Guard fleet.

The Vice Commandant also visited the 87' Bow-to-Stern maintenance program, with an up-front view of the Cutters STINGRAY and HAMMERHEAD undergoing their 60-day planned maintenance before return to the operational fleet.

The Vice Commandant's trip to the Yard coincided with his guest speaking appearance at the Baltimore Area Coast Guard Officers' Association luncheon held at the Yard Dry Dock Club. (USCG photo by PA2 Patrick Kelley)



“We’re Working On It!”



CGC CAPSTAN (WYTL 65601) - Philadelphia, PA  
(Photo by PA2 David Marin)



CGC HAMMERHEAD (WPB 87302) - Woods Hole, MA



CGC EAGLE (WIX 327) - Baltimore, MD  
(Photo by CWO Kristopher McGhee)



CGC SPENCER (WMEC 905) - Boston, MA



CGC STINGRAY (WPB 87305) - Mobile, AL



CGC HAWSER (WYTL 65610) - Bayonne, NJ

## Yard Delivers First Completed 87' "Bow-to-Stern" Patrol Boat

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, the Yard delivered the Coast Guard patrol boat IBIS as the first completed cutter under the 87' bow-to-stern project. The Yard finished a 60-day planned maintenance on IBIS, wrapping up the repair on time and under budget. The patrol boat is homeported in Cape May, New Jersey.

The 87' bow-to-stern initiative is a \$49 million, 4-year recurring maintenance for the Coast Guard Atlantic Area 87' coastal patrol boat fleet. The program boosts the predictability of fleet operational schedules, eases personnel tempo by having crews drop off their cutter for repair and transit home with a completed replacement boat. The project intends to save the Coast Guard \$2.2 million annually with no reduction in fleet operational hours. The Yard

See *Patrol Boat*, pg 5



CGC IBIS (Photo by CWO Kristopher McGhee, Yard)

## Yard Completes Repair of USS CONSTELLATION

The USS CONSTELLATION, normally berthed in Baltimore's Inner Harbor as a museum ship, entered dry-dock at the Yard on October 13, 2014 to begin an anticipated four-month repair availability. The 161-year-old Navy "sloop of war" is under custody of the City of Baltimore and operated by Historic Ships of Baltimore, a program of the Living Classrooms Foundation. The City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland funded the repair project.

The Yard signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Baltimore to accomplish critical repairs to the ship's hull. The \$2 million dry-docking evolution replaced nearly 4500 square feet of rotted hull planking with new wood to improve the ship's water tight integrity. While cradled in the Ex-USS OAK RIDGE, the Yard's World War II era floating dry-dock, the USS CONSTELLATION was wrapped in plastic sheeting to allow work on the hull to continue in inclement weather and to protect newly installed wood. After completing repairs, the Yard undocked the historic vessel on February 27<sup>th</sup> for its transit to the Inner Harbor.

The USS CONSTELLATION was built in 1854 and is the last remaining ship afloat that was active during the U.S. Civil War. Prior to Civil War service, CONSTELLATION interdicted merchant vessels engaged in illegal slave trade off the coast of Africa, repatriating nearly 4000 captured men, women and children back to their homeland countries. The ship is the U.S. Navy's last designed and constructed sail-only warship.

Once back in the Inner Harbor, the USS CONSTELLATION will open daily for public tours. The historic vessel is a "living classroom" allowing students and visitors to learn first-hand about America's rich maritime history. (Photo courtesy of Living Classrooms Foundation)



**Yard Enlisted Member of the Quarter**



*SN Tom Labarre, Yard Security Dept  
FY 15, First Quarter*

**Yard Civilian of the Quarter**



*Russell Cholewa, Yard Machine Shop  
FY 15, First Quarter*

**Yard Announces New Travel Manager**

By Dianne White, Yard Fiscal Department

Karen Bruno is the Yard's new Travel Manager. Karen has been in the Yard Fiscal Department for seven years, most recently as the Lead Accounting Technician for Payments that included travel claim payments. The Yard recently established the Travel Manager position to ensure Yard travelers have a positive administrative travel experience, with the goal of making the travel reimbursement process seamless and efficient, from claim submission to payment.

Karen will provide Yard travelers with knowledge of timely and proper travel reimbursement, and offer coaching and customer service. Additionally, she is responsible for keeping the Yard up-to-date on Federal, DHS, and Coast Guard travel policies and regulations, as well as ensuring these policies and regulations are followed.

In her new position, Karen will replace Denise Borman of the Fiscal Department as the Yard point of contact for Government Travel Charge



*Karen Bruno*

Card (GTCC) applications and establishing passwords in the GTCC online system PaymentNet. Denise will continue to provide back-up assistance to the Yard Travel Accounting Technician, Tramaine Williams, for adjusting GTCC dollar limits.

Karen will be conducting annual travel training in Berry Hall this spring, and she will add a new section to the Yard Civilian Travel Instruction, with a

step-by-step process for completion of manual travel claims.

Karen hails from Dundalk, Maryland and is a graduate of Patapsco Senior High School. She and her husband of 25 years and two children, ages 10 and 4, are residents of Edgemere, Maryland. Karen's interests include music, boating, camping, the beach, all things Disney, and spending time with family and friends.

**Patrol Boat**, cont. from pg 4

benefits with consistent and predictable work schedules and optimal task scheduling within trades.

In the photo on page 4 (top right), Yard tradesmen finish work on IBIS while under a tented dry-dock. The project uses a two-piece plastic wrapped scaffolding system to permit

repairs in the most adverse of weather conditions. When the boat is in place, two separate scaffolds join together to make one enclosed work unit.

The SFLC held an informal bow-to-stern completion ceremony at the Yard's waterfront on January 8<sup>th</sup> to highlight the conclusion of the first

bow-to-stern dry-dock. Captain John McKinley, 87' Bow-to-Stern Project Manager, Coast Guard Office of Cutter Forces, commented, "There are a number of reasons for the success of the bow-to-stern program. It will save taxpayers' money, add additional

See **Patrol Boat**, pg 6

**Milestones**  
**Retirements**

Donald Becker  
Shipfitter/Welder (CNC Operator)  
11 Years

Lesley Rowlett  
Pipefitter  
23 Years

McClain Gary  
Shipfitter/Welder  
39 Years

**Advancements/Promotions**

LT Michael Earley, Ship Superintendent,  
Industrial Department  
Darren Conrad, Structural Leader (Welding/Shipfitting),  
WL-3801-10  
Stephen Campbell, Painter Helper, WG-4102-5  
Jacob McCullough, Painter Helper, WG-4102-5  
Enidel Torres, Jr., Painter Helper, WG-4102-5  
David Sharf II, Rigger Helper, WG-5210-5  
Rodger Pugh, Jr., Rigger Helper, WG-5210-5  
Devon Doyle, Rigger Helper, WG-5210-5  
Tyrus Dove, Painter Helper, WG-4102-5  
Kareem Stanley, Pipefitter Helper, WG-4204-5

Destin Hartman, Marine Machinery Mech Helper,  
WG-5334-5  
Robert Kaloc, Pipefitter Helper, WG-4204-5  
Michael Portz, Marine Machinery Mech Helper,  
WG-5334-5  
Sean Heminger, Structural Helper, WG-3801-5  
Douglas Rutherford, Structural Helper, WG-3801-5  
Eric Alexander, Sheetmetal/Joiner, WG-4701-10  
Robert Harris, Shipfitter/Welder, WG-3820-10  
Ken Nicholas, Crane Operator, WG-5725-11  
Richard Mills, Electrical Engineer, GS-850-11

**Patrol Boat**, cont. from pg 5

cutter days to Coast Guard operations, and stabilize work at the Yard. Today's event showcases the partnership between the Assistant Commandant for Capability and the Directorate for Mission Support programs. This is a great opportunity to recognize the efforts by many that went into this first completed project."

**With Sympathy**

The Yard extends condolences to the family of Chester Mitchell, Pipe Shop, who passed away in January 2015, and to the family of Yard Retiree/BAMTC Union Treasurer Donald Pearl who passed away in December 2014.

**YARD NEWS**



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